[Shri P. Chidambaram]

member from among the members of the House to be a member of the Coffee Board in the vacancy caused by the election of Shrimati D. K. Tharadevi to the Lok Sabha."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

STATEMENT RE. CONSUMER PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1991

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) epxlaining the circumstances which had necessitated immediate legislation by the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Ordinance, 1991. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-126/91)

THE CONSUMER PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1991

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Conusmer Protection Act 1986.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now we take up the Railway Budget...

REFERENCE TO DELAY IN THE RELEASE OF MR. K. DORAISWAMY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INDIAN OIL CORPORATION

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Maharashtra): Madam, I have been raising consistently the question of the release of Mr. Doraiswamy at this time and everytime the Home Minister is assuring us that he is about to be released, but I think the negotiations have gone *phut*. These militants were released, but the militants have not kept up their part of the agreement and they have not released Mr. Doraiswamy. Now the militants are asking for release of seven more terrorists. I think it is a very bad handling by the Government of this entire episode. The Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr. Jacob, is here. I would like to know from him what the actual position at the moment is. I think the Government has bungled on this issue. You have left the militants without ensuring that Mr. Doraiswamy is released and now you are faced with a position where they are wanting seven more terrorists to be released. We would like to know what the position is and what action Government is going to take...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA (Rajasthan): The matter should be handed over to the Defence...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Bihar): Madam, it is a very serious matter. It has not only been bungled, but the report also says that they have released, by mistake, the wrong person, that one of the three person released is not the person who was to be released...(*Interruptions*)... If this is the way in which the Government is handling this whole matter, it is very surprising. I am grateful to my friend, Mr. Suresh Kalmadi, who is raising it consistently every day. We have not been making a big noise in this House because of the delicate nature of his whole matter, but the manner in which the whole thing is being handled, the way the whole thing is being handled is disgusting in the extreme and, therefore, we must have a statement. We are not even sure today whether Mr. Doraiswamy is alive or not. There are doubts being expressed about that. The Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr. Jacob, is here. Will he like to make a statement and respond to this?